

MACAULAY'S USE OF LITERATURE

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be printed with the approbation of the
 licenser. To print
 such a tract without the approbation of the
 licenser was
 illegal. In general, therefore, the respectable
 and moderate
 opponents of the Court, not being able to
 publish in
 the manner prescribed by law, and not thinking
 it right or
 safe to publish in a manner prohibited by law,
 held their
 peace, and left the business of criticising the
 administration
 to two classes of men, fanatical nonjurors who
 hated the
 ruling powers with an insane hatred, and
 Grub Street
 hacks, coarseminded, badhearted, and
 foulmouthed.¹

On the other hand ' the emancipation of the
 press pro-
 duced a great and salutary change. The best
 and wisest
 men in the ranks of the opposition now
 assumed an office
 which had hitherto been abandoned to the
 unprincipled or
 the hotheaded. Tracts against the
 government were
 written in a style not misbecoming statesmen
 and gentle-
 men ; and even the compositions of the lower
 and fiercer
 class of malcontents became somewhat less
 brutal and less
 ribald than formerly/²

However, at the beginning of the reign, when
 party feel-
 ing was highest and the censorship was in
 force, the
 Jacobite pamphleteers, says Macaulay, ' were,
 as a class,
 savagely malignant and utterly regardless of
 truth/³

Everybody knew it and attached little credit to
 what they
 wrote. For instance, when they related the

story of the
 massacre of Glencoe, people in England did not
 believe
 them. ' The habitual mendacity of the Jacobite
 libellers
 had brought on them an appropriate
 punishment. Now,
 when, for the first time, they told the truth,
 they were sup-
 posed to be romancing. They complained
 bitterly that
 the story, though perfectly authentic, was
 regarded by
 the public as a factious lie/ ⁴

*V_f 2544-6 (xxi).

* Ibid.

³ V, 2327 (xix).

* V, 2166 (xviii).